



## CT SCAN

### What to expect from a CT scan as a comforter or carer

#### What is CT?

CT (computed tomography) is an advanced imaging technology which takes x-ray images from different angles of the body. These images are combined by a computer to produce cross-sections of internal organs and 3D images.

#### Will I be exposed to radiation during the scan?

You will be exposed to a small amount of radiation but you will stand in a position as advised by the Radiographer away from the primary beam, you will wear a lead PPE that will help to provide protection from it. Our CT scanner facilitates more accurate diagnosis with lower exposure to radiation than other CT scanners.

We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day; from the earth, the air, building materials, food and even outer space (cosmic rays). The average annual background radiation exposure in the UK is 2.7 mSv (milli-Sieverts) (PHE 2011).

#### Your role as comforter and carer:

You can be authorised to stay in the room to comfort and calm the patient you are with if needed. This will help them to remain still and avoid repeat radiation exposures that may be necessary if they move. Your reassurance will also help to make the scan a more pleasant experience for them.

You should not be a comforter or carer if you are or think you could be pregnant.

#### What can you expect during the scan?

You will be asked to stand in a position as advised by the radiographer away from the primary beam, and you will be provided with a lead PPE which a radiographer will help you put on. This provides a protective layer of lead over the body in order to protect you from the radiation whilst the images are taken.

#### How long will it take?

The scan will usually take between 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the type of scan. For more complicated scans, for example cardiac or colonoscopy scans, it can take up to 45 minutes.

#### What can I expect during my scan?

The radiographer will position the patient on the table of the CT scanner and ask them to relax and lie as still as possible. Once they are in the correct position, the table will slide into a large open doughnut-shaped ring (not a closed tunnel).

#### How does the patient receive their results?

After the scan, if the patient is a private patient the radiographer will provide them with a CD of their images to take away. (We do not usually issue CDs for non-private patients, unless the doctor or consultant who referred the patient has asked us to).

A radiologist will write a report and send it to the doctor or consultant who referred the patient, usually within 48 hours. The report will contain a summary of the radiologist's findings and their recommendations for further follow-up.

The patient will need to arrange an appointment to discuss the report with the doctor or consultant who referred them for the x-ray.

#### Further questions

If you have any further questions or worries please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our team. The comfort and safety of you and the patient is of utmost importance to us.

For further information, including contact details and directions on how to find us, please visit our website: [www.harleystreet-medicalcentre.com](http://www.harleystreet-medicalcentre.com).

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We are committed to providing clean, safe premises for our clients in line with the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Infections and related guidance (December 2010) and all other Department of Health guidance.